

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROWLAND HILL GEDDIE, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Rowland Hill Geddie, Jr. Rowland attended the University of Alabama, graduating with a degree in business in 1954. While there, he met and married Mary Martha McGaughy in 1953. Together they had four children; Rowland Hill Geddie, III (Peggy), Ginger Geddie Roark (Steve), Martha Leanne Geddie Ward (Darrell), and Norton Brown McGaughy Geddie (Tammy).

From 1954 to 1956, he served in the U.S. Army at Fort Lee in Virginia and Fort McPherson in Atlanta as a Lieutenant. After his military service, he began a civilian career. He moved back to Martha's hometown of Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1957 after a stint of working at Rich's Department Store in Atlanta. While in Tupelo, Rowland ran her family's store, McGaughy's, until 1976, when he closed the store as well as its affiliated businesses and then began attending the University of Mississippi School of Law. In 1978, he graduated with a Juris Doctorate in the same class as his son, Rowland H. Geddie, III. Rowland began his law career as a solo practitioner, working cases of various types and developing a focus in criminal defense.

In 1981, he found his true calling when he began working with the Office of the District Attorney for the First District of Mississippi, serving under District Attorney Johnny Young. He prosecuted thousands of criminal cases over the course of his twenty-five years in the office until his retirement in 2006. He reveled in being in front of a jury and the opportunity to allow what he referred to as "Truth, Justice, and the American Way to once again triumph over the forces of Darkness and Evil." He believed that the courtroom was the last best opportunity for a victim's voice to be heard and for justice to be done and that such justice became the voice for a victim.

After the untimely death of Martha, his first wife, in 1982, Rowland met June Sawyer Hamilton, and, after a long-distance courtship between Tupelo, Mississippi, and Tucson, Arizona, Rowland and June married on December 12, 1987. June brought to the family three daughters; Jennifer Hamilton Lee (Derek), Molly Allison Hamilton, and April Zilpha Hamilton. Rowland loved his family dearly and was an involved stepfather to the new family members.

Rowland was an avid photographer, a pilot, a scuba diver, a lifelong CB and ham radio enthusiast, and actor in community theater, a motorcyclist, a gun enthusiast, a hunter, a fisherman, a canoeist, a camper, and a water skier.

In addition to his time in the District Attorney's Office, Rowland served his community through numerous volunteer roles, including

Cub Scout Pack Master; Rotarian, serving as president of the Rotary Club of Tupelo; Mock Trial Judge for Tupelo High School; a founding member of Tupelo Community Theater; and president of the Mississippi Merchants' Association.

Rowland is survived by his loving wife, June; his children, Rowland, Ginger, Leanne, Norton, Jenny, Molly, and April; 16 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN PARVENSKY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Parvensky.

John has dedicated his life to helping others and, after 37 years as the head of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, there is no doubt that John has done exactly that.

John first moved to Denver in 1984 after graduating law school to begin a career helping nonprofit organizations. It didn't take long, though, for John to realize he had another calling in life. And just 1 year after his arrival in the Mile High City, John set out on a mission to provide real help to those experiencing homelessness throughout the city.

He arrived at the perfect time. It was at just that moment that then-Denver Mayor Federico Peña was putting together a task force to tackle homelessness. Out of that task force came the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

What John thought would be a temporary assignment has turned into a lifelong passion, and the coalition he started has become a permanent fixture in the state.

Thanks to John's tireless work, Colorado's Coalition for the Homeless has grown from a group of 6 people to an organization that now employs more than 750 people across the state. Its budget has grown from \$100,000 to more than \$10 million a year. And, with John at the helm, the organization that started as a single health care center now serves over 22,000 people every year.

John's leadership and advocacy on behalf of those experiencing homelessness, both in Denver and across the U.S., has led to the development of countless new ideas and innovative strategies that are now being used in cities and towns across the country to help those in need.

John was instrumental in creating the Denver Housing First Collaborative that provides housing and supportive services to more than 200 people with disabilities experiencing homelessness. And he was the driving force behind the development of Denver's new state-of-the-art Stout Street Recuperative Care Center—a first-of-its kind mixed-use development intended to provide medical respite and recuperative care to hundreds of people experi-

encing homelessness every year after they are released from the hospital.

John's efforts have been widely recognized throughout his career. He currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the National Coalition for the Homeless; and he has been the recipient of numerous awards to highlight his many achievements in his quest to help others—including the 2018 Philip W. Brickner National Leadership Award from the National Healthcare for the Homeless; the 2016 Carle Whitehead Memorial Award from ACLU of Colorado; and the 2012 Be More Award from Rocky Mountain PBS.

After more than 35 years as the head of Colorado's Coalition for the Homeless, John announced that this summer will be his last running the organization. As he prepares to begin the next chapter of his life, I want to express my profound thanks to him for his tireless advocacy on behalf of those experiencing homelessness and the outstanding work he's done over the years to improve the lives of so many people who call our city home.

I offer my best wishes on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARTHUR A. MURPHY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader and political activist. Arthur A. Murphy transitioned from this life on January 2, 2023, in Hardeeville, South Carolina. His work to better the lives of those in Jasper County, as well as his commitment to increase diverse representation were honorable and deserve recognition.

Arthur Murphy was born in Robertville, South Carolina on December 11, 1943, to the late Mr. Clarence and Mrs. Beatrice Brown Murphy. He attended public schools in Jasper County, South Carolina. Upon graduation, he moved to Brooklyn, New York to pursue further education at the School of Printing. He remained in New York for more than 30 years working in the printing profession. In 1993, he returned to South Carolina, where he founded his own printing company, Repro Graphics.

In addition to his company, Arthur was an active member of the community. In 1994, just 1 year after moving back to South Carolina, he became Chairman of the Jasper County Democratic Party. He continued to serve in this role on and off throughout the rest of his life. It was in this capacity that I was fortunate to get to know Arthur. He was committed to getting the best candidates possible into public office in his county, especially those who would represent the diverse voices of the community. Arthur was also an active member of the NAACP. Through his various community leadership roles, Arthur received several awards and honors.

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